

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Bull Run Civil War Round Table on the occasion of its 25th anniversary and in commending the organization for its efforts to preserve Civil War history.

U.K. REFERENDUM

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the British people will vote in a historic referendum on the question of their continued Membership in the European Union.

Their ultimate decision on whether to remain, or to leave, will—without question—have implications on not only their future, but also on the future of the European Union.

Mr. Speaker, there has naturally been a tremendous amount of debate on both the likely final vote tally and on the precise outcomes of any given result.

And as we have observed this debate, witnessed domestic and international financial markets respond to swings in polling data, and listened to endless speculation by the pundits, there should be one thing that is absolutely certain—with no room for debate or speculation.

That, regardless of the outcome of the referendum, is the commitment on the part of the United States to stand—unequivocally—with our trusted ally the United Kingdom.

However Mr. Speaker, leading up to the vote tomorrow, the Obama administration has certainly been keen to express their preferred outcome, and justifications for this position.

And quite publicly.

It has even been suggested that the United States would not be in the market for a bilateral Free Trade Agreement with an independent United Kingdom.

Thus placing the Special Relationship at quote “the back of the queue”.

This type of rhetoric and effort to tilt the scales has been particularly troubling.

Fortunately Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that this, and other such statements, reflect the prevailing belief in Congress that the United States would abandon our ally—let alone seek to actively penalize the United Kingdom for any decision made by their citizens.

Our relationship with the United Kingdom will remain strong.

The Special Relationship enjoyed by the United States and the United Kingdom has long advanced our shared values and forged a unique and unbreakable bond between our peoples.

Our relationship with the United Kingdom has weathered all storms and stood up to the countless challenges placed before it.

It is a central factor in the foreign, security, economic, and trading policies of our nation.

It has advanced prosperity and defended the security of our nation and the free world.

Simply put, the United States is stronger because of the Special Relationship.

Regardless of the vote tomorrow, the United States will stand shoulder to shoulder with the United Kingdom.

We will not abandon our shared commitment to freedom, security, democracy, human

rights, and a strong and enduring transatlantic relationship.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Tuesday, June 21, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on roll call vote 334 and “yea” on roll call votes 335 and 336.

IN RECOGNITION OF FARM CREDIT'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as we near its 100th anniversary, I write today to commend the cooperative owners and the employees of the Farm Credit System for their continuing service in meeting the credit and financial services needs of rural communities in New Hampshire.

As a Member of the House Agriculture committee, I was pleased to cosponsor House Resolution 591, which commemorates the Farm Credit System centennial. The Farm Credit System was established by Congress through the Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916, and signed into law on July 17, 1916, by President Woodrow Wilson. Congress designed the Farm Credit System as a permanent means to support the well-being and vitality of America's rural communities and farmers.

My district is served by two Farm Credit associations: Farm Credit East and Yankee Farm Credit. Together, they have over \$235 million in loan commitments to their customer owners in the Granite State.

Several leaders of both organizations are from my district, including Paul Franklin, Chairman of the Yankee Farm Credit Board, and Steve Taylor, former New Hampshire Commissioner of Agriculture, both of whom are from Plainfield, and Thomas Colgan from Lyme. Farm Credit East board members Henry Huntington of Loudon and Tim Chan of Claremont are also from New Hampshire's second district.

Farm Credit is involved in the agricultural community throughout New Hampshire, supporting organizations like Land for Good, which seeks to provide land access to farmers, and Annie's Project which assists women in agriculture. Farm Credit staff serve in leadership roles for the New Hampshire 4-H Foundation and supporting programs such as UNH Extension's Agriculture and Natural Resource Business Institute.

Farm Credit has demonstrated its commitment to its customer owners in New Hampshire for a century, and I look forward to its continued commitment for the next one hundred years.

THE GREAT AND HOLY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Orthodox Christian community, and recognize the historic Great and Holy Council meeting in Greece from June 19–26, 2016.

Bringing together 350 leaders of 14 Orthodox Christian Churches from Istanbul to Antioch to Romania to Slovakia, this Council represents more than 300 million followers worldwide, including one million Americans. While Council attendees self-govern their churches, they remain united in their values, faith, liturgy, and following of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople.

Under the leadership of the Ecumenical Patriarch, this is the first gathering of Orthodox churches in 1,200 years. The Council will underscore the direction, purpose, and mission of Orthodox Christian Churches. It is an opportunity to discuss the Diaspora and relations with other Christian churches worldwide.

The Ecumenical Patriarch has an unsurpassed record for steering cooperative effort, adding this remarkable Council to his record of success. Often referred to as the “first among equals” by his followers, the Ecumenical Patriarch maintains collegial relations with other Patriarchs and hierarchical leaders. His effectiveness as a leader is complemented by his gracious and generous spirit.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when religious division remains a source of conflict and suffering, I celebrate this Council for its message of unity, tolerance, and peace.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS LOCAL 202 (1916–2016)

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 202. Let me congratulate Local 202's President, Daniel Kane, Jr., Business Agent John Rieder and all the officers, trustees and the membership for your continued service to the Union and the Labor Movement.

When the Great War, World War I, raged on in Europe in 1916, Teamsters Local 202 was born. This organization helped immigrants from all walks of life who came to this great city and Nation for a better life and to live the American Dream. “A fair day's pay for a fair day's work” has been the Teamsters' motto and their label that has provided and improved the quality of life of workers' rights through collective bargaining, negotiating and ratifying good contract agreements. Through collective bargaining, the union has been able to ride out the storms of rolling economies, and has made sacrifices to ensure that Local 202 continues to exist for all workers, young and old.

Through the hustle and bustle of everyday life, Local 202 has stood strong for 100